



Virginia News



Cycling is an enjoyable pursuit in all seasons. NPS Photo.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Capital Region Greenway Initiative**
City of Richmond, Virginia
- 2. Connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington, DC**
City of Alexandria, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties
- 3. Great Eastern Trail**
Great Eastern Trail Association
- 4. James River Heritage Trail**
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- 5. Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail**
Mathews Maritime Foundation
- 6. Occoquan Water Trail**
Occoquan Watertrail League (OWL)
- 7. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail**
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- 8. Tobacco Heritage Trail - A&D Rail Trail**
Virginia Tourism Corporation

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Virginia Statewide Trails Initiative

In 2007, the Virginia Greenways and Trails Task Force was established, to advance a long-distance trails strategy. The goal was to knit together Virginia's six long-distance trails into a 2000 mile interconnected network.

Project accomplishments to-date include: development of a state-wide trails inventory; completion of the task force report "Virginia's Long-Distance Trail Network: Connecting Our Commonwealth," expanded educational opportunities and trainings, and an enhanced trail web site and quarterly e-newsletter.

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"The DCR is very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with RTCA on our new and far-reaching statewide trails initiative. RTCA's national perspective has been critical for moving the process forward."

-- John Davy, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation,

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Current Projects

1. Capital Region Greenways

Location: City of Richmond; Town of Chester; and Chesterfield County
Congressional Districts: 1,3,4
Project Partner: City of Richmond
NPS Contact: Ursula Lemanski

Project Goal

Development of a system of interconnected trails, greenways, parks, and open space for the greater Richmond region.

2. Connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington, DC

Location: City of Alexandria, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties
Congressional District: 8
Partners: City of Alexandria, and Arlington and Fairfax Counties
NPS Contact: Beth Porter, Anne O'Neill

Project Goal

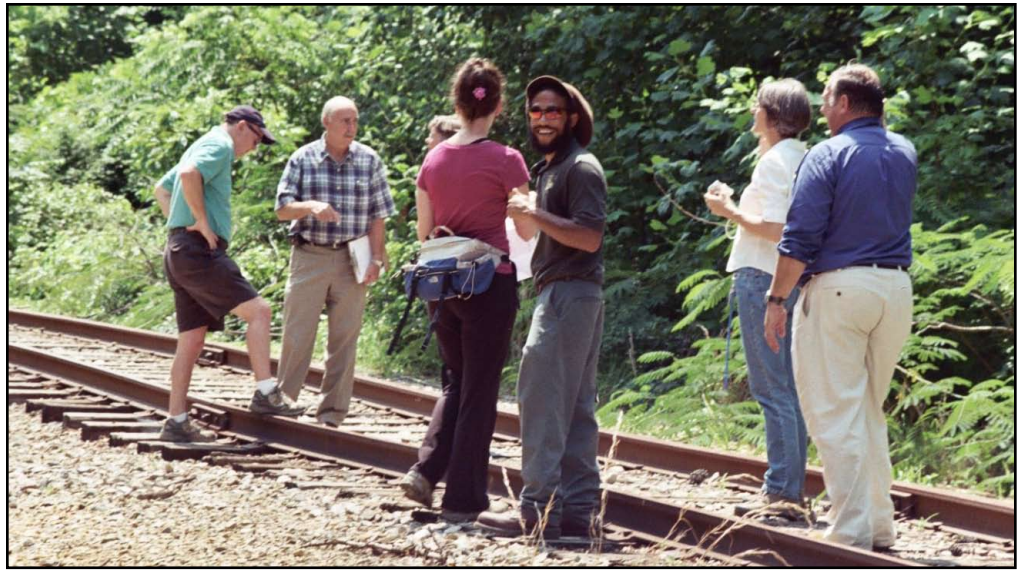
Establish a bike route that connects key civil war forts in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax, Virginia.

3. Great Eastern Trail - KY/VA/WV links

Location: Southern WV, eastern KY, southwestern VA.
Congressional Districts: KY -5; VA-9; WV-3
Project Partner: Great Eastern Trail Association
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Project Goal

Create a 350+ mile hiking/multi-use trail link between the Breaks Interstate Park in Virginia and Kentucky to the Allegheny Trail on the West Virginia-Virginia border.



4. James River Heritage Trail

Location: James River corridor in central Virginia, from the headwaters to the Chesapeake Bay
Congressional Districts: 1,3,4,5,6,7
Project Partner: VA Department of Conservation and Recreation
NPS Contact: Ursula Lemanski

Project Goal

Development of the James River Heritage Trail (JRHT), a proposed 340 mile trail network, extending from the Chesapeake Bay to the headwaters.

5. Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail

Location: Mathews County, VA
Congressional District: 1
Project Partner: Mathews Maritime Foundation
NPS Contact: Ursula Lemanski

Project Goal

Development of the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail (East River, Phase 1) that preserves significant natural and cultural resources, supports local economies, improves quality of life, and connects and interprets the river's unique maritime history.

“RTCA has been a valuable partner on our project, providing critical organizational, facilitation, and trail planning expertise and being pivotal in keeping our group on target. RTCA has advised us on partnership and funding opportunities, broadening participation of national organizations and expanding financial support to local groups.

- Doug Conner, Councilman, City of Richmond

Current Projects cont.

6. Occoquan Water Trail

Location: The 40 miles of the Upper and Lower Occoquan River and the National Recreation Trail.

Congressional Districts: 10,11

Project Partner: Occoquan Watertrail League (OWL)

NPS Contact: Anne O'Neill

Project Goal

Numerous improvements to the Occoquan Water Trail relating to signage, rest areas, put-ins, and creation of a public education program.

7. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail--Virginia

Location: The Virginia coast from North Carolina to the Chesapeake Bay, part of a larger multi-state project from Georgia to Virginia.

Congressional Districts: 1,4

Project Partner: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

NPS Contacts: Ursula Lemanski

Project Goal

Development of a water trail along the Atlantic Coast from the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail to the Chesapeake Bay.

8. Tobacco Heritage Trail - A&D Rail Trail

Location: Mecklenburg, Halifax, and Brunswick Counties in Southern Virginia

Congressional Districts: 4,5

Project Partner: Virginia Tourism Corporation

NPS Contact: Ursula Lemanski

Project Goal

Development of a regional system of rail-trails and connecting routes that link communities and resources in Southside Virginia for economic development, heritage tourism, health, and recreation.

“In addition to supporting local economies, the trail network provides healthy outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for local residents.”

- Sandra Tanner,
Virginia Tourism Corporation

Recent Successes cont.

Tobacco Heritage Trail

Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails

The vision of developing a regional network of trails in Southside Virginia began with a small group of citizens, looking for a safe place for children to ride their bikes. Over the past several years, the initiative has grown into a showcase outdoor recreation, wellness, and heritage tourism initiative involving 4 counties and 12 municipalities.

Under the leadership of Roanoke River Rails-To-Trails (RRRT), along with the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program and other organizations, plans are underway to convert over 100 miles of abandoned rail corridors into a network of trails and connecting routes known as the Tobacco Heritage Trail (THT). In addition to supporting regional recreation and wellness goals, the trail is seen as a valuable tourism asset.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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